

# CAFF Report to Senior Arctic Officials

Oulu, Finland

May 15-16, 2002

SAO2002/A/11.2.1.

## 1. Mandate from Barrow

The Second Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council endorsed the following activities under CAFF's five objectives:

### *Monitoring of Arctic biodiversity*

- continue the development and implementation of a comprehensive network to monitor biodiversity, focusing on key species and species-groups of ecological and economic value;
- play an integral role in the completion of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment;
- develop and implement monitoring activities in collaboration with AMAP in support of ACIA and other assessments.

### *Species and habitat conservation:*

- support the further development of the flora group to address priority flora and vegetation issues and to support ACIA, biodiversity monitoring, and CPAN;
- finalise the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map;
- continue coordinating the implementation of the murre and eider strategies;
- address the recommendations from CAFF's work on seabird bycatch and the conservation of migratory birds outside the Arctic.

### *Protected areas:*

- continue coordinating the implementation of the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network, with specific focus on the full range of values of Arctic protected areas, marine protection in collaboration with PAME, electronic linkages to facilitate communication among protected area managers, and integrating protection of indigenous sacred sites into CPAN.

### *Biodiversity conservation outside protected areas*

- complete the project development phase of the UNEP/GEF/CAFF project on "An Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimise Habitat Fragmentation in the Russian Arctic, including securing the necessary funds to complete the development phase and to initiate the Full Project.

### *Integration and information sharing:*

- complete the full CAFF Overview Report on Arctic conservation issues;
- prepare recommendations based on the Overview Report;

- use the Overview Report and recommendations to enhance awareness among the public and decision-makers about important Arctic biodiversity concerns.

## **2. Developments since Espoo, November 2001**

The CAFF Board met in Akureyri, April 9-10, 2002, to assess progress and plan deliverables to the Third AC Ministerial Meeting in October 2002.

### **2.1 Monitoring of Arctic biodiversity/ACIA assessment**

CAFF has established two additional species-based circumpolar monitoring networks, i.e. for polar bears and gees, bringing the total number of networks to eight.

A meeting among the network coordinators and CAFF National Representatives, funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, was held in Akureyri, Iceland, April 11-12, 2002. The meeting finalized a funding proposal to the European Union (5<sup>th</sup> Research Framework). The proposal aims to strengthen the infrastructure of the monitoring work, *inter alia* through holding an extended workshop in early 2003 among Arctic, European and global providers and users of biodiversity information.

An Arctic GLOBE protocol on Seasonal Markers (i.e. indicators of changing seasons) is almost completed and will be presented at a GLOBE workshop in Akureyri, August 7-12, 2002, co-sponsored by CAFF. The GLOBE Program is seen as important public/community element of Arctic monitoring and conservation work.

CAFF AMAP collaboration continues. After the Third AC Ministerial, the two working groups will begin to elaborate a joint strategy for how to integrate their monitoring activities more closely.

The ACIA is on track with the next ASC meeting and release of first drafts of the assessment chapters scheduled on June 2-5, 2002.

CAFF and AMAP have prepared, and submitted to SAO, a revised strategy for preparing the ACIA Policy Paper. Drafting work is anticipated to begin in early 2003.

### **2.2 Species and habitat conservation**

The CAFF Circumpolar Seabird Expert Group met for the eighth time in Anchorage, January 2002. Several projects were discussed, including:

- Preparation of a prioritised list of Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern – i.e. migratory birds nesting in the Arctic and wintering outside of it. The list will probably involve some 40-50 species.
- Continued reporting on the Seabird Bycatch Issue. An updated assessment is being prepared on seabird gillnet bycatch in the circumpolar region – to be released as a CAFF Technical Report.

- The recently released CAFF Technical Report No. 5 Seabird *Harvest Regimes in Circumpolar Nations* is being revised – there is a need to improve seabird harvest monitoring in Russia, specifically in the Chukotka Region.
- Implementation of the circumpolar eider and murre strategies continues. Specific projects include: a common eider colony map; a thick-billed murre population model (a similar model has already been completed for eiders); and a murre colony poster, which has been completed.

The Proceedings of the first CAFF Flora Expert Group meeting, Uppsala, Sweden, March 2001, have been published as CAFF Technical Report No. 10.

The Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Mapping project is nearing completion. The map will be presented to the Third AC Ministerial.

### **2.3 Protected Areas**

The CAFF CPAN Expert Group met in Anchorage, February 2002, to evaluate progress on the CPAN Strategy and Action Plan and to reinvigorate the CPAN project. Highlights include:

- The RAIPON/CAFF pilot project to map and identify the Conservation Value of Sacred Sites of indigenous peoples in Kamchatka/Koryak and Yamal-Nenets, is nearing completion. A project consultant is currently providing an international context and quality controlling the report. The project, which was implemented solely by indigenous experts, has already had positive impact on legislation work in the model regions and neighbouring regions of northern Russia are interested in conducting similar projects. A full report will be presented to the Third AC Ministerial.
- A project to compile a Compendium of Ecologically Important Marine Areas is being scoped. While the ultimate goal is to create a series of map overlays, similar to the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map, the project will begin with a scoping exercise to define the marine environment for the purpose of this activity, assess previous work and its application, and define physical and biological characteristics for identifying ecologically important marine areas.
- A public education booklet is being prepared on the Full Values of Arctic Protected Areas (including ecological, cultural, spiritual, and economic). The goal is to have the booklet completed in time for the Third AC Ministerial.
- A new CPAN Progress Report – detailing protected area activities in each of the circumpolar countries over the last 5 years – will be prepared before the Third AC Ministerial.
- A homepage on Arctic protected areas, specifically designed for the needs of protected areas' managers is under construction, for integration with the CAFF website ([www.caff.is](http://www.caff.is)).

### **2.4 Biodiversity conservation outside protected areas**

The UNEP/RUSSIA/CAFF GEF project “Integrated Ecosystem Approach Through Adaptive Management to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentation in Three Model Areas in the Russian Arctic/ECORA” is making good progress. ECORA Expert Task Team meeting was held in Moscow, October 31-November and the ECORA Editorial Team met in Iceland in January 2002.

Reports from all ECORA subtasks were completed by end of February. Two of these, “Circumpolar Best Practices in Integrated Ecosystem Management” and “Review of Projects Relevant for Biodiversity Conservation and Use of Biological Resources in the Russian Arctic”, will be published as CAFF Technical Reports.

A draft Project Brief was also completed by end of February. However, due to outstanding issues regarding co-funding (both within and outside Russia), it was decided to postpone the Brief’s submission to the GEF Secretariat until August 2002.

Confirmed Russian cash, and Western cash **and in kind** co-funding for ECORA (entire 5-year project period) is currently as follows:

Source	Amount (USD)	Notes
Nenets AO	250 000	Cash support to Kolguev Island MA – initial commitment.
Yakutia	600 000	For Kolyma River MA - 150 000 cash per year for 5 years.
Chukotka AO	115 000	Cash support to Beringovsky MA – initial commitment.
Lukoil	170 000 tentative	For Kolguev Island MA - draft letter received.
Canada	300 000	Approximately 60 000 cash and <i>in kind</i> support per year for five years.
Norway	250 000	Approximately 50 000 cash and <i>in kind</i> support per year for five years. Mainly earmarked for the Koguev Island MA.
USA	100 000	Cash and <i>in kind</i> support to the Beringovsky MA – initial commitment.

Support from Finland and Sweden is further anticipated. **An oral update on the co-funding situation will be provided in Oulu.**

## 2.5 Integration and information sharing

There is still high demand for the CAFF overview report *Arctic Flora and Fauna: Status and Conservation*. Approximately 300 copies have been sold via the two internet bookstores ([www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com) and [www.earthprint.com](http://www.earthprint.com)) in addition to the roughly 3000 copies initially distributed within the Arctic region. The CAFF Secretariat still carries approximately 700 copies of the book.

A pdf version of the report is now available at the CAFF homepage ([www.caff.is](http://www.caff.is) )

CAFF has prepared a second version of “*Arctic Flora and Fauna: Recommendations for Conservation*” for SAO attention. This version is based on comments received at the last SAO meeting in Espoo, written follow-up comments from four AC Member States, and discussions at the recent CAFF Board meeting in Akureyri. The intention is to publish the recommendations in a stand-alone booklet format and present them

to the Third AC Ministerial Meeting for endorsement. **SAOs are kindly requested to review the document and provide comments.**

## **2.6 CAFF Administration and Management**

The CAFF Board held its last meeting in Akureyri, Iceland, April 9-10, 2001. The CAFF WG will hold its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting (CAFF IX) in Abisko, Sweden, August 27-30 to plan deliverables to the Third AC Ministerial and to develop a work plan for the upcoming inter-ministerial period 2002-2004.

Snorri Baldursson has decided to leave the post of CAFF Executive Secretary as of May 31. The post has been advertised in all member states and beyond with a deadline May 3, 2002. Tiina Kurvits' assignment to the CAFF Secretariat from Fisheries and Oceans Canada will end by September 2002.

## **3. Deliverables for the Third AC Ministerial October 2002**

CAFF intends to deliver the following main products to the Third AC Ministerial Meeting:

- "Arctic Flora and Fauna: Recommendations for Conservation"
- A full Project Brief for the UNEP/GEF/CAFF ECORA project.
- A report on the Conservation Value of Sacred Sites of Indigenous Peoples.
- A Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map and Database.
- A booklet on the Full Value of Arctic Protected Areas
- Progress report on ACIA, together with AMAP and IASC, including a strategy for preparing the ACIA Policy Document.
- Progress/final reports on other CAFF program activities as appropriate.

## **4. External developments which may influence CAFF's priorities**

Any AC decision regarding organisational and structural matters may affect the work and priorities of CAFF.

## **5. Activities needing coordination with other WGs**

CAFF and AMAP are engaged in an active dialogue regarding the monitoring issue. CAFF has invited PAME to participate in marine related CPAN work. There may be a need to formalise CAFF and SDWG collaboration on sustainable use issues.

## **6. Developments calling for SAO guidance**

SAO guidance is sought on the progress report in general and plans outlined therein. SAOs are specifically requested to:

- Comment on Draft #2 of “Arctic Flora and Fauna: Recommendations for Conservation”, submitted separately by CAFF
- Comment a revised Strategy to prepare the ACIA Policy Document, submitted separately by CAFF and AMAP
- Take note of the planned CAFF deliverables to Ministers.

## CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA CAFF

### UPDATED WORK PLAN 2000 – 2002

April 2002

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The CAFF Work Plan 2000-2002 specifies actions agreed upon by the eight Arctic countries to be undertaken by CAFF, under the auspices of the Arctic Council, during the period September 2000 to fall 2002.

The CAFF Work Plan 2000-2002 follows the format of and represents steps towards implementing the “Strategic Plan for the Conservation of Arctic Biological Diversity,” which was endorsed by the Arctic Ministers in 1998 as a framework for future CAFF activities.

#### II. WORK PLAN

##### **1. Monitoring of Arctic biodiversity**

- 1.1. Facilitate establishment of nine networks of experts to identify priority elements of a program to monitor biological diversity (**All**) and report progress as it relates to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment at CAFF IX. (**Iceland**).  
EIGHT NETWORKS ESTABLISHED SO FAR.

~~1.2. Hold a meeting among monitoring network coordinators and the CAFF Board in early 2002 to discuss progress, funding, organisational issues, and deliverables to the AC Ministers in fall of 2002 (Iceland). NEW DONE~~

- 1.3. Collaborate with AMAP to harmonize biological diversity monitoring activities. (**Sweden, as CAFF Chair/CAFF Secretariat**). IN PROGRESS

- 1.4. Collaborate with AMAP and the International Arctic Science Committee to prepare the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment for delivery to the Ministers in 2004. (**Norway/Canada/CAFF Secretariat**) IN PROGRESS

##### **2. Species and habitat conservation**

## **Flora**

- 2.1. ~~Establish the CAFF Flora Group to address priority flora and vegetation issues in support of CAFF priorities including the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network and circumpolar monitoring. A charter will be prepared for the April 2001 CAFF management meeting. (USA/AII) DONE~~
- 2.2. Review issues identified in the *ad hoc* CAFF Flora Group discussion paper tabled at CAFF VIII at a workshop to be held in Fennoscandia in 2001, and make recommendations to CAFF IX on priority action items. **(USA/AII)**. IN PROGRESS.
- 2.3. Continue preparation of a taxonomically unified checklist of Pan-Arctic Flora, and revise the list of rare non-endemic plants of circumpolar conservation concern. Provide a status report at CAFF IX. **(Russia/CAFF countries as appropriate)**. IN PROGRESS.
- 2.4. Complete the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map in 2002, and present the map at CAFF IX. **(USA)**. IN PROGRESS.

## **Fauna**

- 2.5. Co-ordinate national and circumpolar implementation of the International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and report on progress to CAFF IX. **(USA/Circumpolar Seabird Working Group)**. IN PROGRESS.
- 2.6. Co-ordinate national and circumpolar implementation of the Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and report on progress to CAFF IX. **(USA/Circumpolar Seabird Working Group)**. IN PROGRESS.
- ~~2.7. Review recommendations of the CAFF Seabird Bycatch Workshop and CAFF Technical Report No. 1, "Incidental Take of Seabirds in Arctic Countries," and report to the April 2001 CAFF management meeting on priority activities for implementation. (USA/Circumpolar Seabird Working Group) DONE~~
- ~~2.8. Review recommendations of CAFF Technical Report No. 5 "Seabird Harvest Regimes in the Circumpolar Nations," and report to the April 2001 CAFF management meeting on priority activities for implementation. (USA/ Circumpolar Seabird Working Group). DEFERRED TO JANUARY 2002 DONE~~
- 2.9. ~~Review recommendations of the CAFF workshop on "The Conservation of Migratory Birds Outside the Arctic," and report to the April 2001 CAFF management meeting on priority activities for implementation. (Russia/Circumpolar Seabird Working Group) DONE~~

## **3. Protected Areas**

- 3.1. Further develop electronic linkages to facilitate communication among protected area managers and others, by updating and expanding the CAFF web-site, and by establishing an electronic means, such as a list server, to distribute information on protected area initiatives and other CAFF activities. **(USA/CAFF Secretariat/UNEP GRID-Arendal)** IN PROGRESS.
- 3.2. Analyse the conservation value of sacred sites of indigenous peoples of the Russian Arctic, their current status and ways to enhance their protection through the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network, and report findings to CAFF IX. **(RAIPON/Russia/CAFF Secretariat)**. IN PROGRESS.

- 3.3. Prepare by fall 2002 a booklet demonstrating the Full Range of Values of Arctic Protected Areas. **(Canada/CPAN Expert Group)** IN PROGRESS
- 3.4. Prepare by April 2002 a preliminary project proposal to prepare a Compendium of Ecologically Important Marine Areas **(Canada/CPAN Expert Group)** IN PROGRESS.

#### **4. Biodiversity conservation outside protected areas**

- 4.1. Complete by December 2001, a PDF-B for a Main Global Environment Facility Project "Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentation in the Russian Arctic." Begin implementation of the Main Project in 2002. Implementation of both phases will be dependent upon receipt of matching funds. **(Russia/Norway/CAFF Secretariat/UNEP GRID-Arendal)** SUBMISSION OF FULL PROJECT BRIEF TO GEF BY AUGUST 2002.

#### **5. Integration and information sharing**

- 5.1. ~~Complete the CAFF overview report on Arctic conservation issues, and present it to the Senior Arctic Officials in June 2001, in conjunction with the meeting marking the tenth anniversary of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. **(Finland/All)** DONE~~
- 5.2. Develop recommendations for further actions based on the information and conclusions presented in the overview report, for presentation to the Ministers in 2002 **(Sweden, as CAFF Chair/All)** SECOND DRAFT SUBMITTED TO SAOs IN MAY 2002.

#### **6. Outstanding Administration and Management Actions**

- 6.1. ~~Revise and finalize CAFF's draft operating guidelines and submit to the Senior Arctic Officials for approval in June 2001. **(USA)** DONE~~
- 6.2. ~~Revise and finalize CAFF's draft communication strategy and submit to the Senior Arctic Officials for approval in June 2001. **(Iceland)** DONE~~